

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A milking machine ~~comprising~~ comprising:

at least a first teat cup ~~comprising~~ having a teat cup shell and a teat cup liner, said teat cup liner ~~comprises~~ includes a lower end connected to a milking vacuum source for drawing milk from ~~said a~~ a milking animal, and a top end forming a space and an teat entrance in which a teat of ~~[[a]]~~ the milking animal is to be introduced, said teat cup liner further ~~comprises~~ includes an inlet to said space connected to a source,

wherein ~~control means controlling~~ a control device controls the vacuum in said space in ~~relation~~ accordance to a milking criteria of said ~~animal~~ animal,

said milking machine includes a vacuum difference measuring device, provided to measure a vacuum difference between the lower end of said teat cup liner and said space, and

said control device is provided to adjust said vacuum level in said space during milking according to at least said measured vacuum difference.

14. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, further comprising
[[-]] an animal identification ~~means~~ device provided to detect ~~the~~ an identity of
[[a]] the milking animal and relate said identity to at least one milking criteria.
15. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said vacuum ~~difference in said space~~ is dynamically varied during [[the]] a
milking process depending upon [[the]] a momentary milk flow.
16. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said milking criteria is [[the]] an expected time to finish [[the]] milking ~~for~~
~~the~~ of a particular udder quarter being milked.
17. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said milking criteria is [[the]] an expected milk yield.
18. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said milking machine ~~comprises~~ includes one teat cup for each udder
quarter to be milked, and
- said control ~~means~~ device is provided to set the vacuum ~~level~~ in said space in
each teat cup so that all udder quarters finish milking simultaneously.
19. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said vacuum ~~level~~ in said space is set at start of milking.

20. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said vacuum ~~level~~ in said space is set dynamically during milking.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said vacuum ~~level~~ in said space is set to a first value during a first part of
said milking and to a second value during a second part of said milking.
23. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said vacuum ~~level~~ in said space is set so that an increased vacuum
difference is achieved between said space and said teat cup liner lower end ~~for~~
~~animals having a~~ when the milking animal has a higher milk flow than the
~~average milking animal.~~
24. (Currently Amended) The milking machine according to claim 13, wherein
[[-]] said teat cup shell or teat cup liner ~~comprises~~ includes a sensor for
sensing vacuum levels in said space.
25. (New) A milking machine comprising:
at least a first teat cup having a teat cup shell and a teat cup liner, said
teat cup liner includes a lower end connected to a milking vacuum source for
drawing milk from a milking animal, and a top end forming a space and an

teat entrance in which a teat of the milking animal is to be introduced, said teat cup liner further includes an inlet to said space connected to a source, wherein a control device controls the vacuum in said space in accordance to a milking criteria of said animal, and said vacuum in said space is dynamically varied during a milking process depending upon a momentary milk flow.

26. (New) A milking machine comprising:

at least a first teat cup having a teat cup shell and a teat cup liner, said teat cup liner includes a lower end connected to a milking vacuum source for drawing milk from a milking animal, and a top end forming a space and an teat entrance in which a teat of the milking animal is to be introduced, said teat cup liner further includes an inlet to said space connected to a source, wherein a control device controls the vacuum in said space in accordance to a milking criteria of said animal, and said milking criteria is an expected time to finish milking of a particular udder quarter being milked.

27. (New) A milking machine comprising:

at least one teat cup for each udder quarter to be milked having a teat cup shell and a teat cup liner, said teat cup liner includes a lower end connected to a milking vacuum source for drawing milk from a milking animal, and a top end forming a space and an teat entrance in which a teat of the

milking animal is to be introduced, said teat cup liner further includes an inlet to said space connected to a source,

wherein a control device controls the vacuum in said space in accordance to a milking criteria of said animal, and

said control device is provided to set the vacuum in said space in each teat cup so that all udder quarters finish milking simultaneously.